

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



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WSP Releases July 4th Weekend Activity Report

From July 4, 2003, through July 6, 2003, the three-day holiday weekend, there were seven highway fatalities investigated by the Washington State Patrol. During the holiday period last year, there were nine deaths on Washington highways investigated by the WSP.

The number of collisions on Washington roadways was down by 29% from last year to this year. This year, 285 collisions were reported as compared to 402 during the same time period last year.

"Our troopers were very busy over the holiday weekend enforcing our four core mission areas: DUI, aggressive driving, dangerous speeding, and seat belts," explained Chief Ronal W. Serpas. "We stopped 11% more people this year than last year in the hope of reducing the numbers of collisions, injury, or death. Despite the excellent efforts of our troopers, there were still far too many lives lost on our roadways over the holiday weekend," Chief Serpas added.

4th of July July 4 through 6, 2003

	<i>All Roadways</i>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Change</u>
1.	Number of Collisions	402	285	-29%
2.	Number of Alcohol-Related Collisions	36	27	-25%
3.	Number of Fatal Collisions	7	7	0%
4.	Number of Fatalities	9	7	-22%
5.	Number of Fatalities Wearing Safety Belts	2	1	-50%
6.	Total Number of Contacts	13,168	14,693	11%
7.	Number of DUI Arrests	267	262	-2%
8.	Number of Speed Citations	4,445	3,674	-17%
9.	Number of Speed Warnings	3,515	3,395	-3%
10.	Number of Safety Belt Citations	1,173	613	-48%

	<i>All Roadways</i>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Change</u>
11.	Number of Safety Belt Warnings	305	243	20%
12.	Number of Child Restraint Citations	51	60	18%
13.	Number of Child Restraint Warnings	31	43	39%
14.	Drug-Related Arrests	112	262	134%
15.	Number of Self-Initiated Motorist Assists	2,323	1,837	-21%